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SECOND SATURDAY AT HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS FREE ADMISSION

To help warm up your winter and get the family out of the house, the Montana Historical Society is offering free admission every "Second Saturday" of the month for the rest of the calendar year with special door prize drawings in the Museum Store and events.

"This is a great way to get out and have some fun at the place where Montana history is always as fresh as a summer breeze. Join us and get a chance to win some great door prizes as well," Interim Society Director Mike Cooney said.

With Valentine's Day coming two days after the first "Second Saturday" Feb. 12, Cooney said the Society's Museum Store is a good place to look for that Montana-made piece of jewelry or other unique gift that says "I love you and Montana."

"Since I have become interim director, I have heard over and over again that our Museum Store is one of the best places to shop in Montana," Cooney said. "Each Second Saturday will be different, and people can learn more about us and Montana history."

The Society Library in the Research Center is open Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Librarian Brian Shovers said his staff will be on hand to help people answer those questions they have about Montana History.

"Saturdays are generally a little slower for us, and we have more time to work with people. This will be a good chance for parents and guardians to share their love of history and the fun of research with their kids. They can show them what they mean when they say 'this is how it was when I was your age,'" Shovers said.

With many people facing difficult economic times, Cooney said the Society wanted to offer individuals and families a chance to enjoy Montana's Museum. "We know that families are looking for inexpensive things to do this winter, and this is a fun place to come – especially with our new hands-on kid's exhibit," he said.

Cooney said he hopes people will mark the "Second Saturday" of the month on their calendars and join in on the fun of being a Montanan.